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FEBRUARY 1999

# TERRORISM REVIEW

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February 1999

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# Terrorism Review

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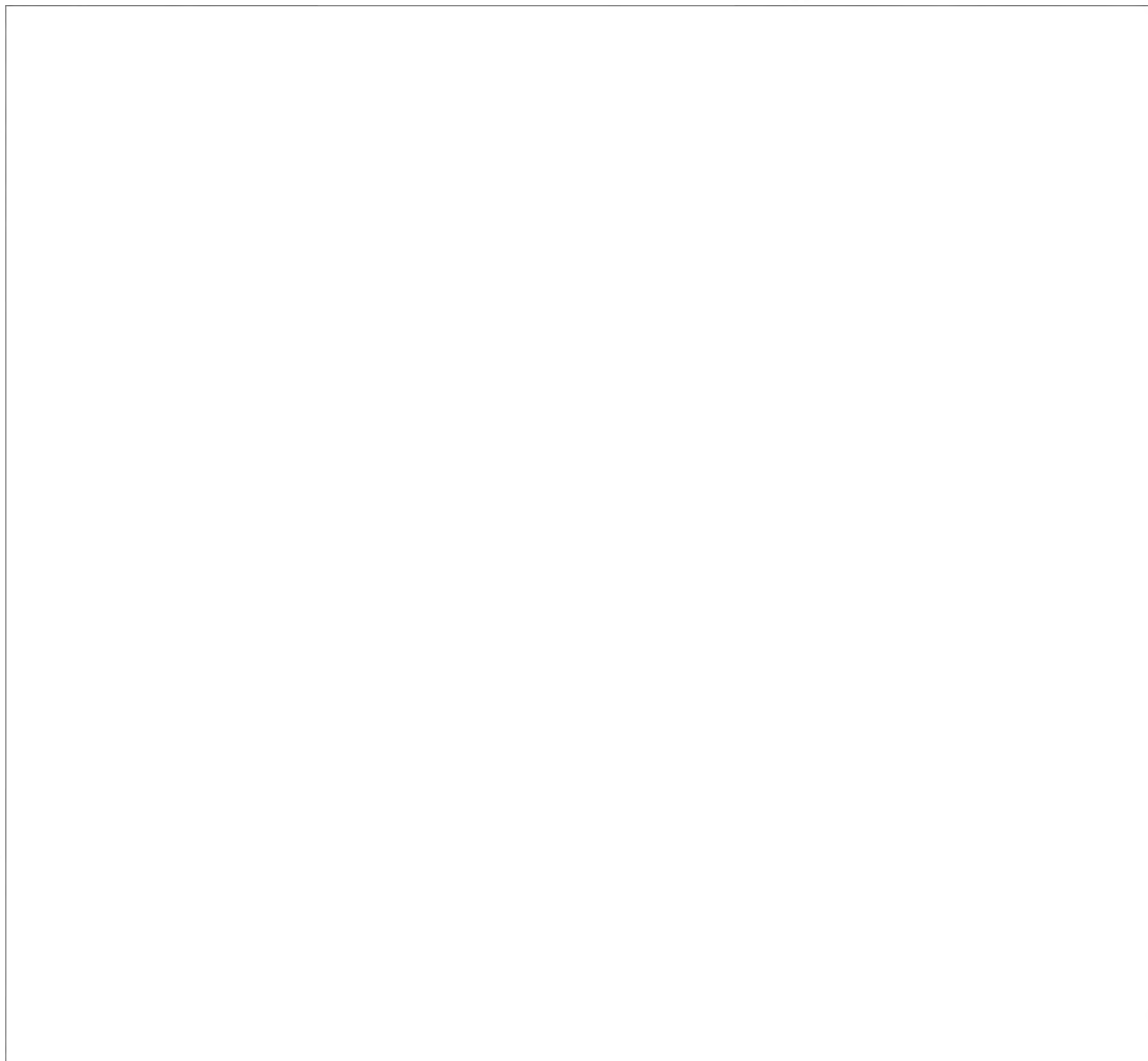
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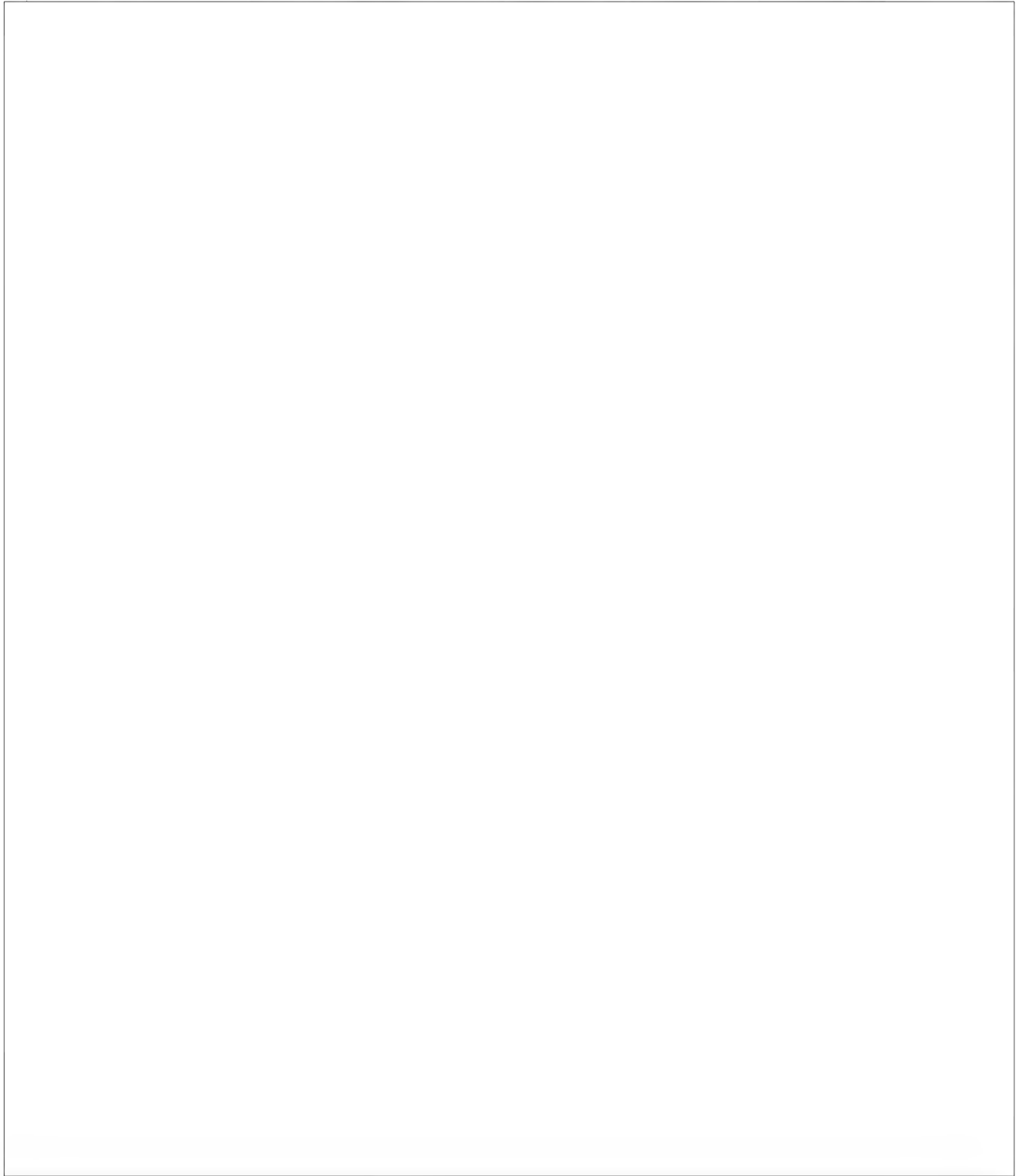


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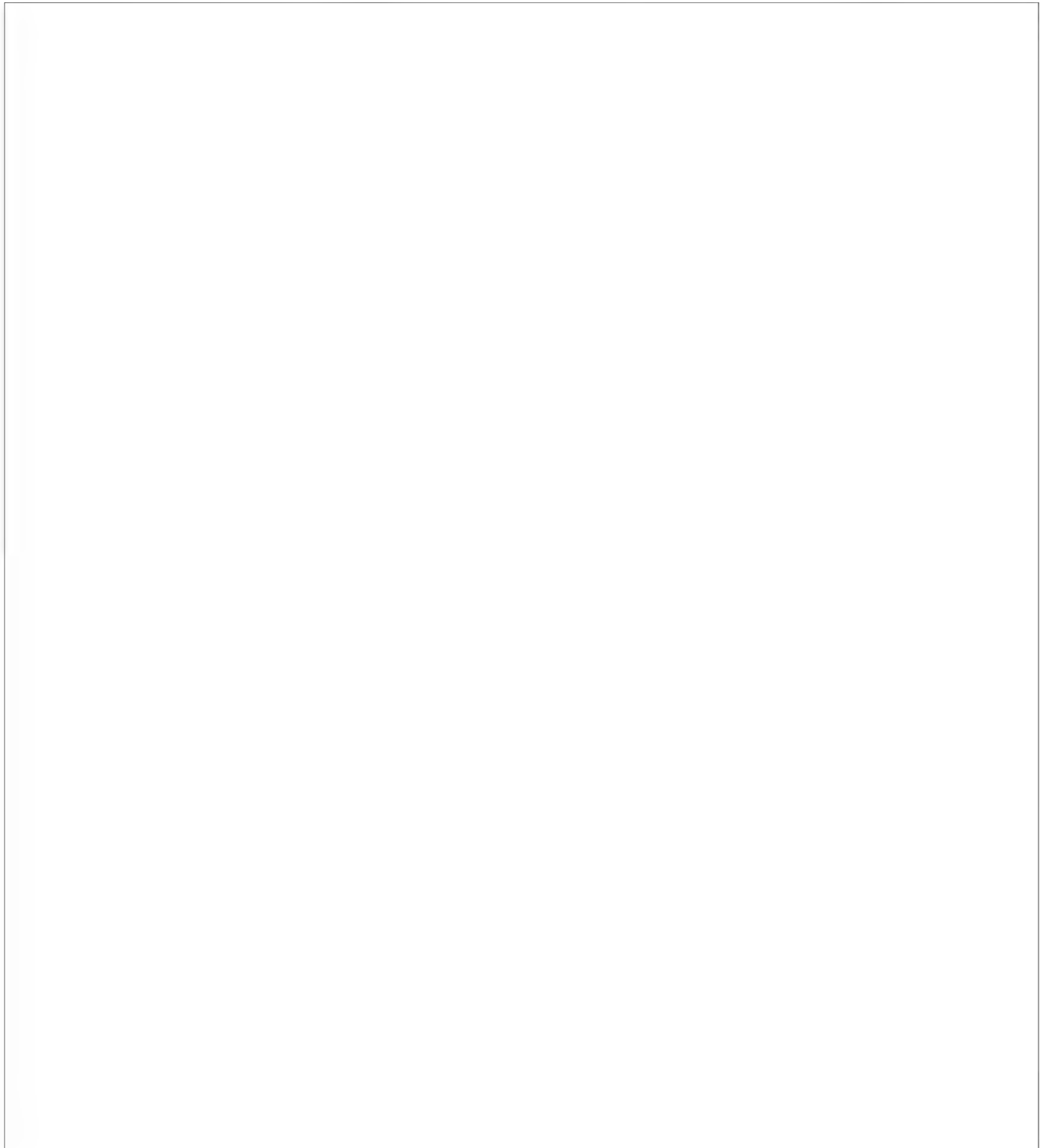


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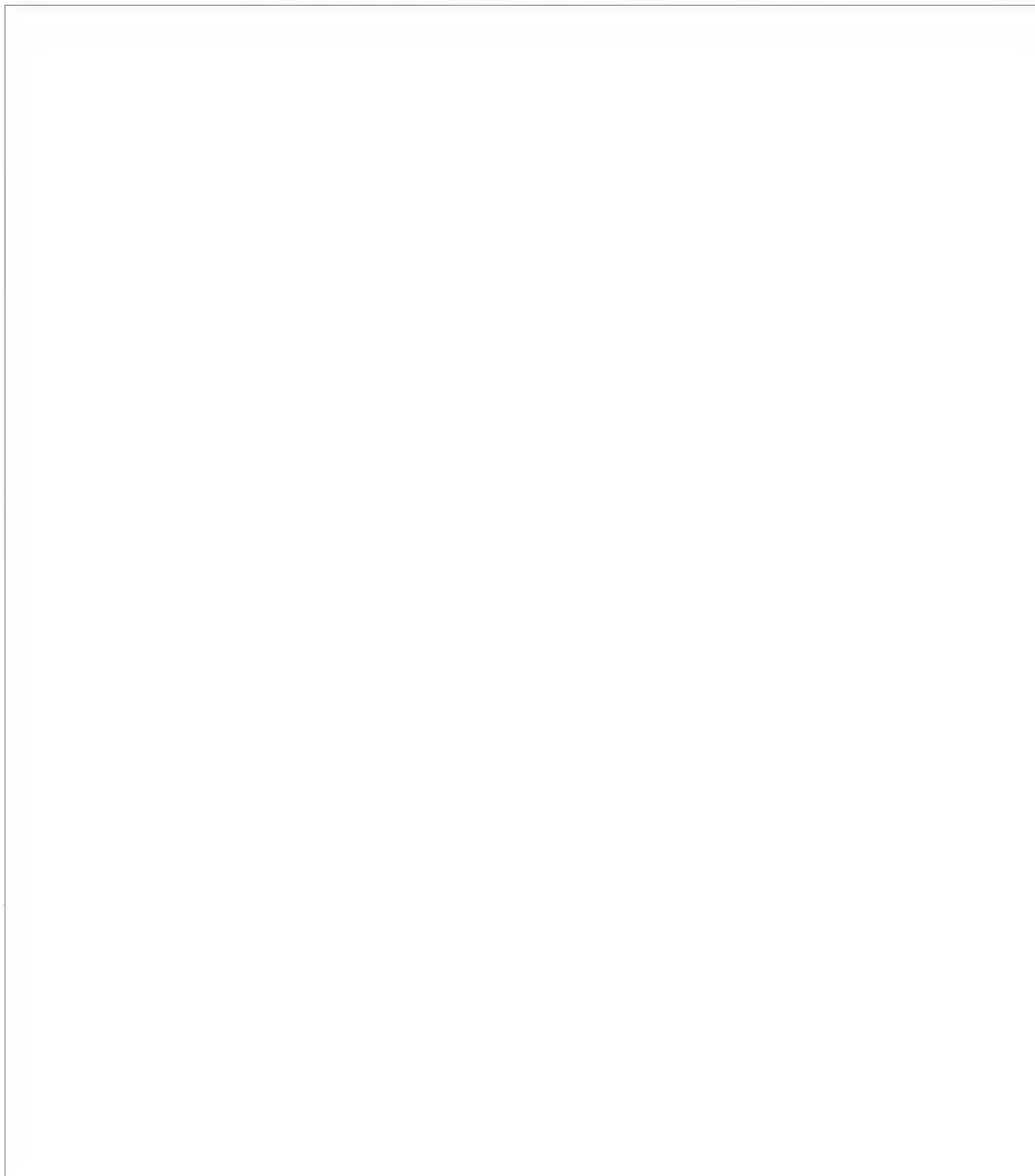
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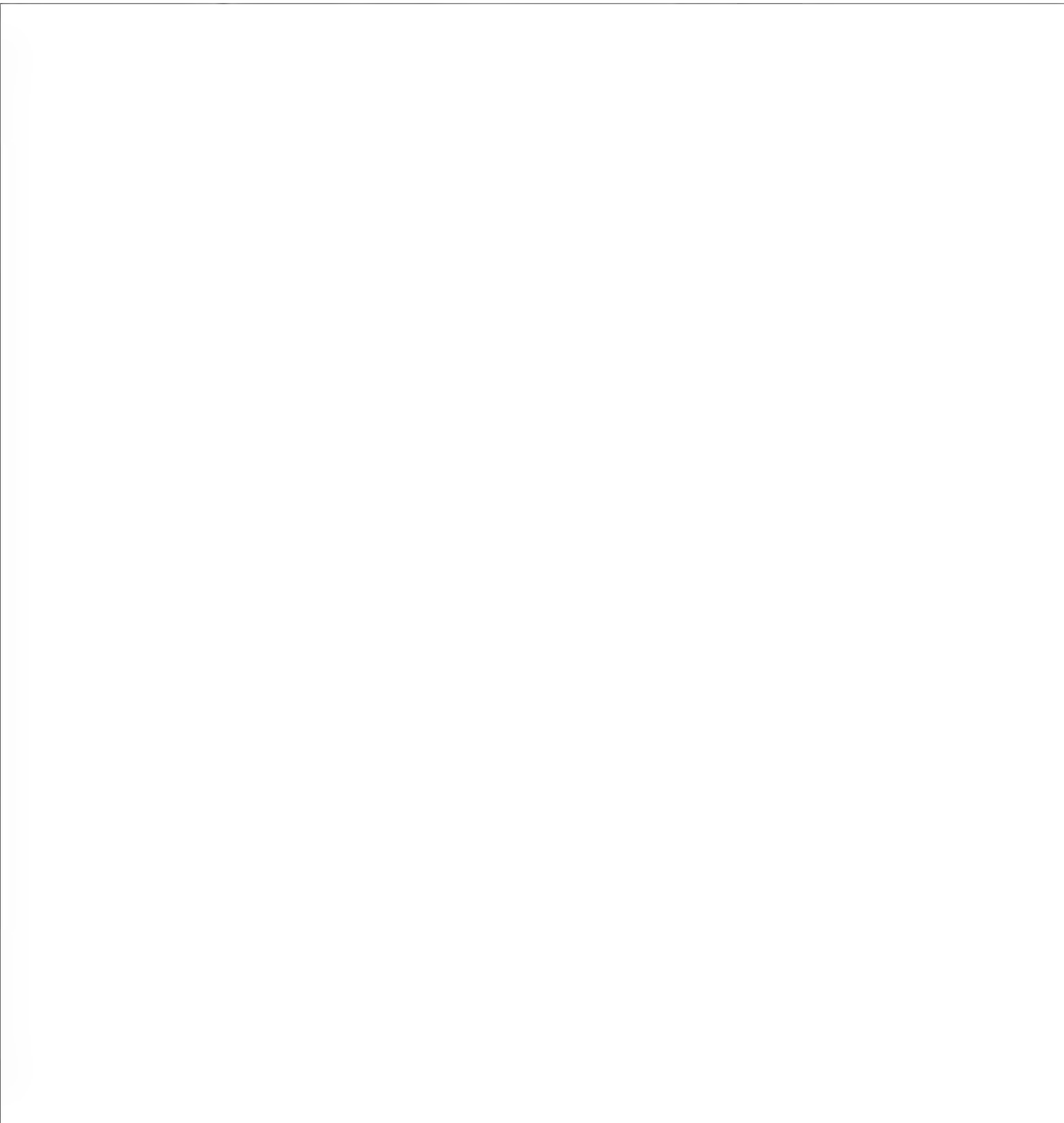
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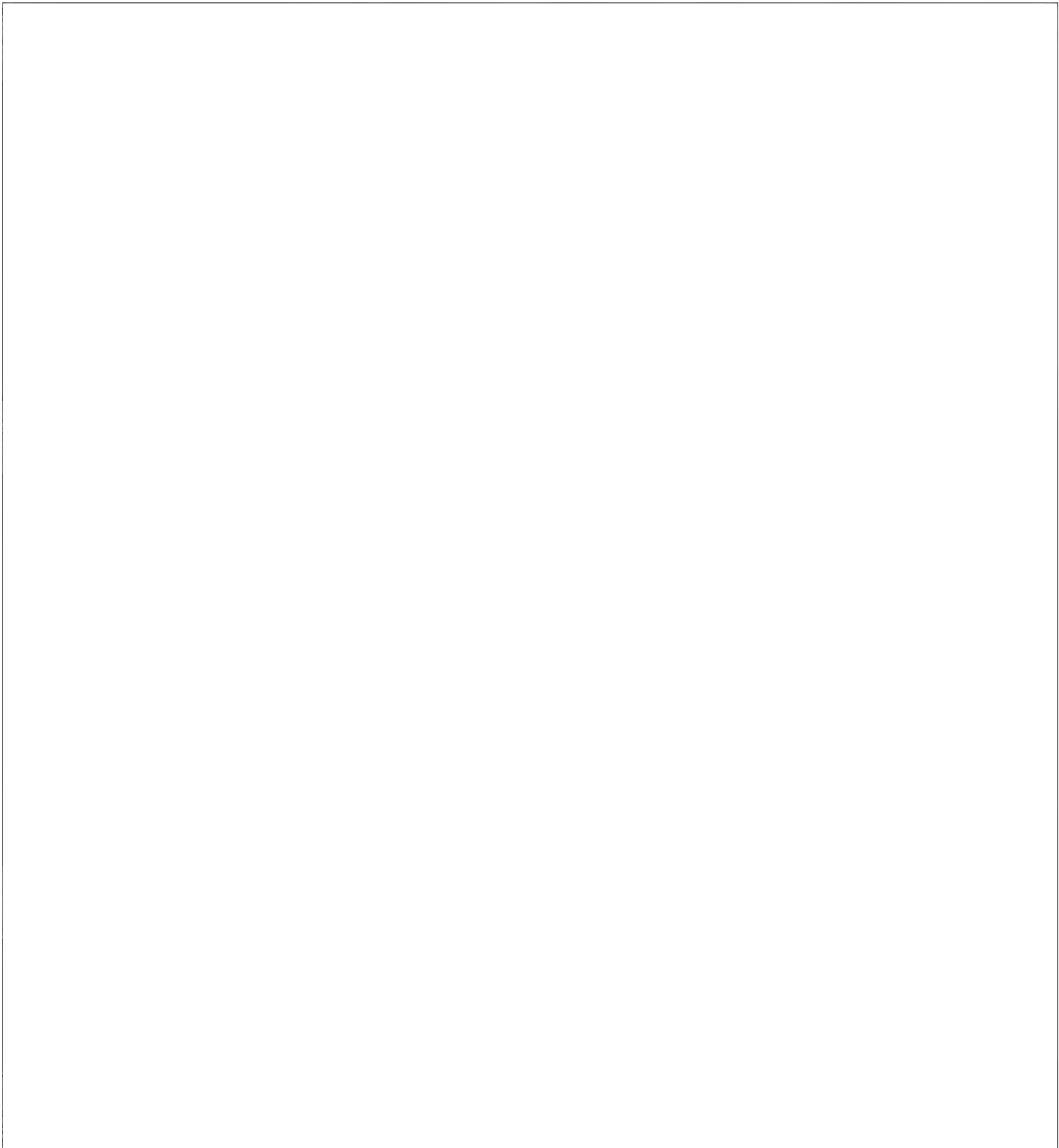
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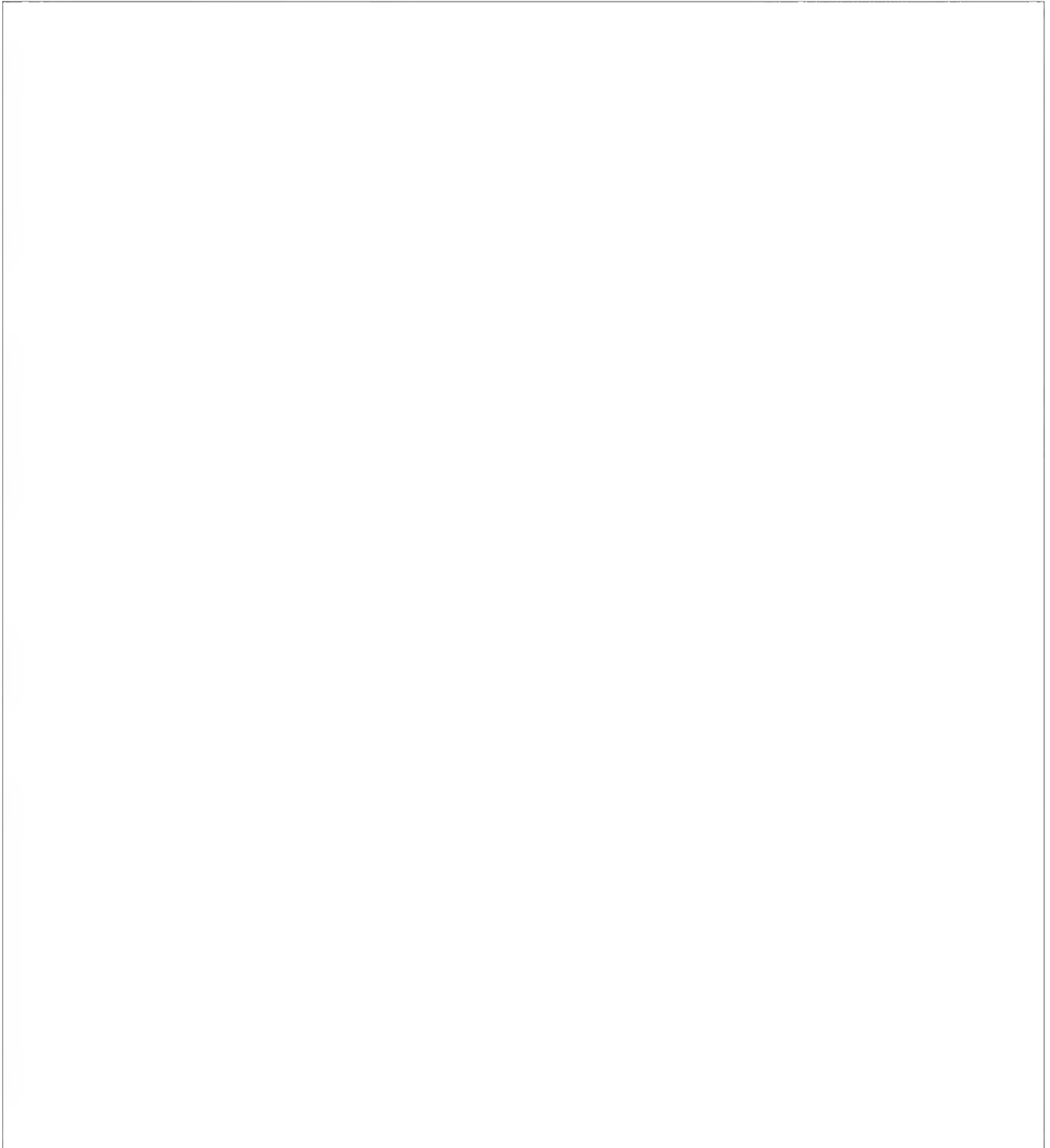
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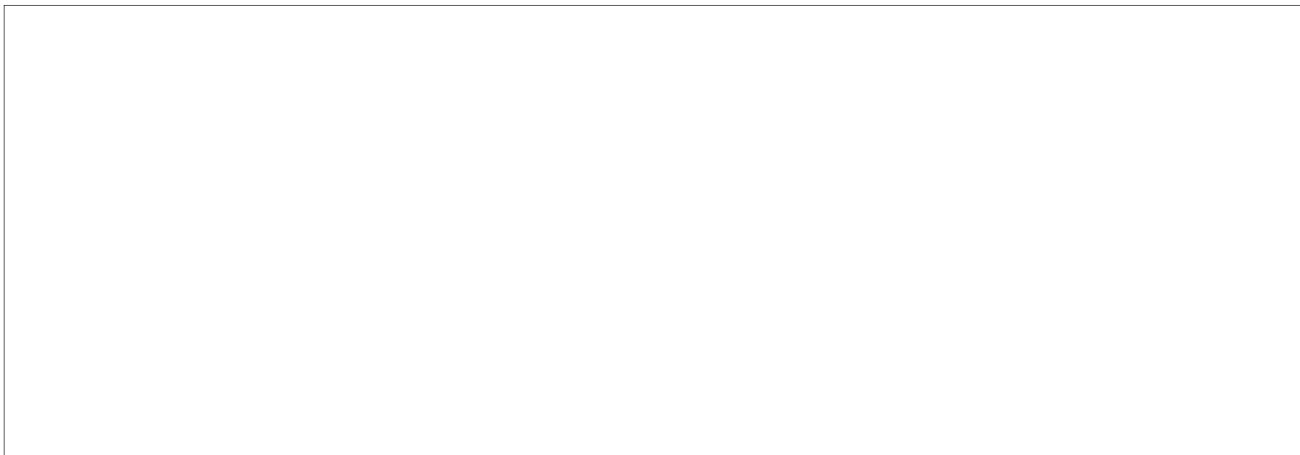


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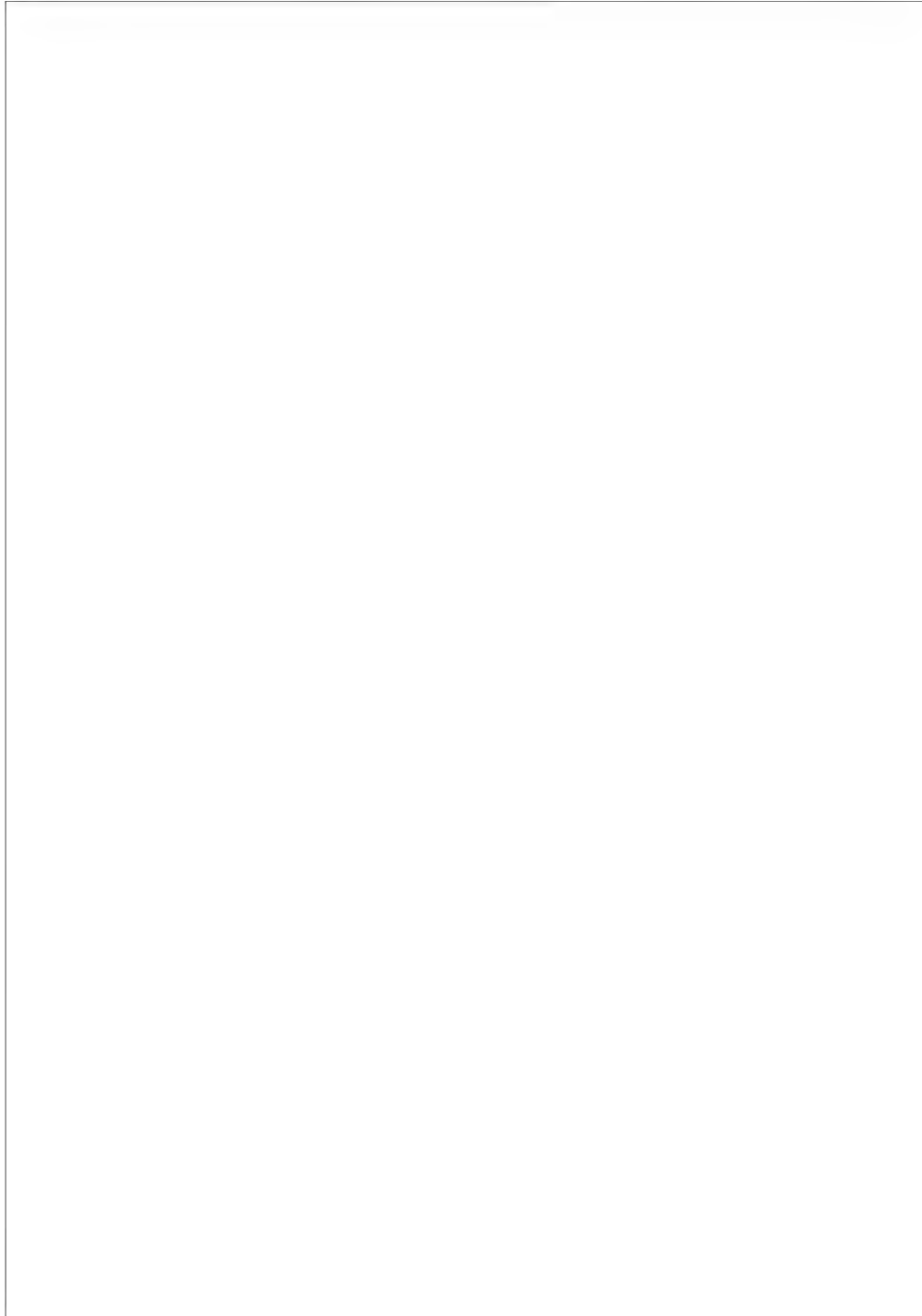


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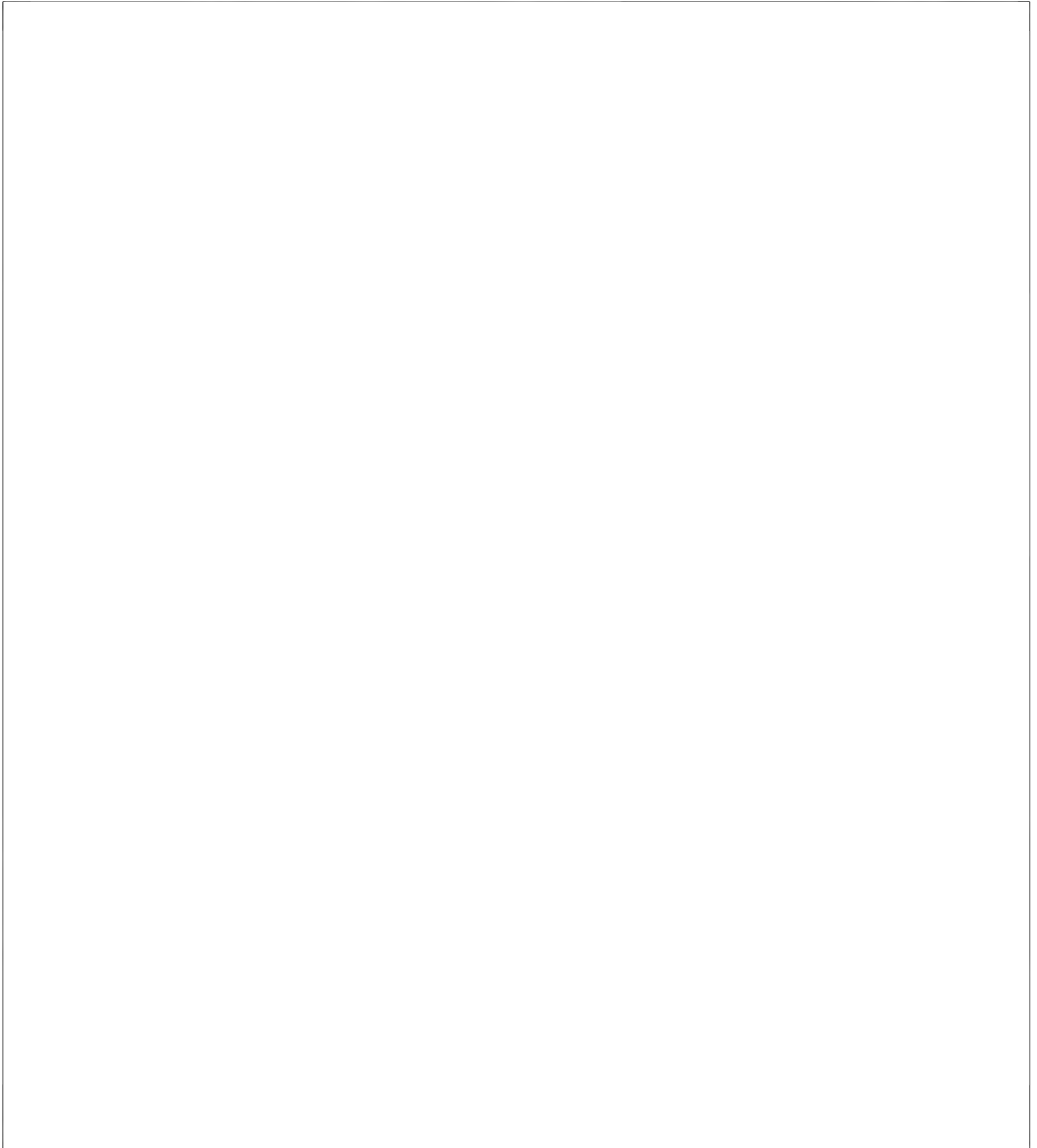


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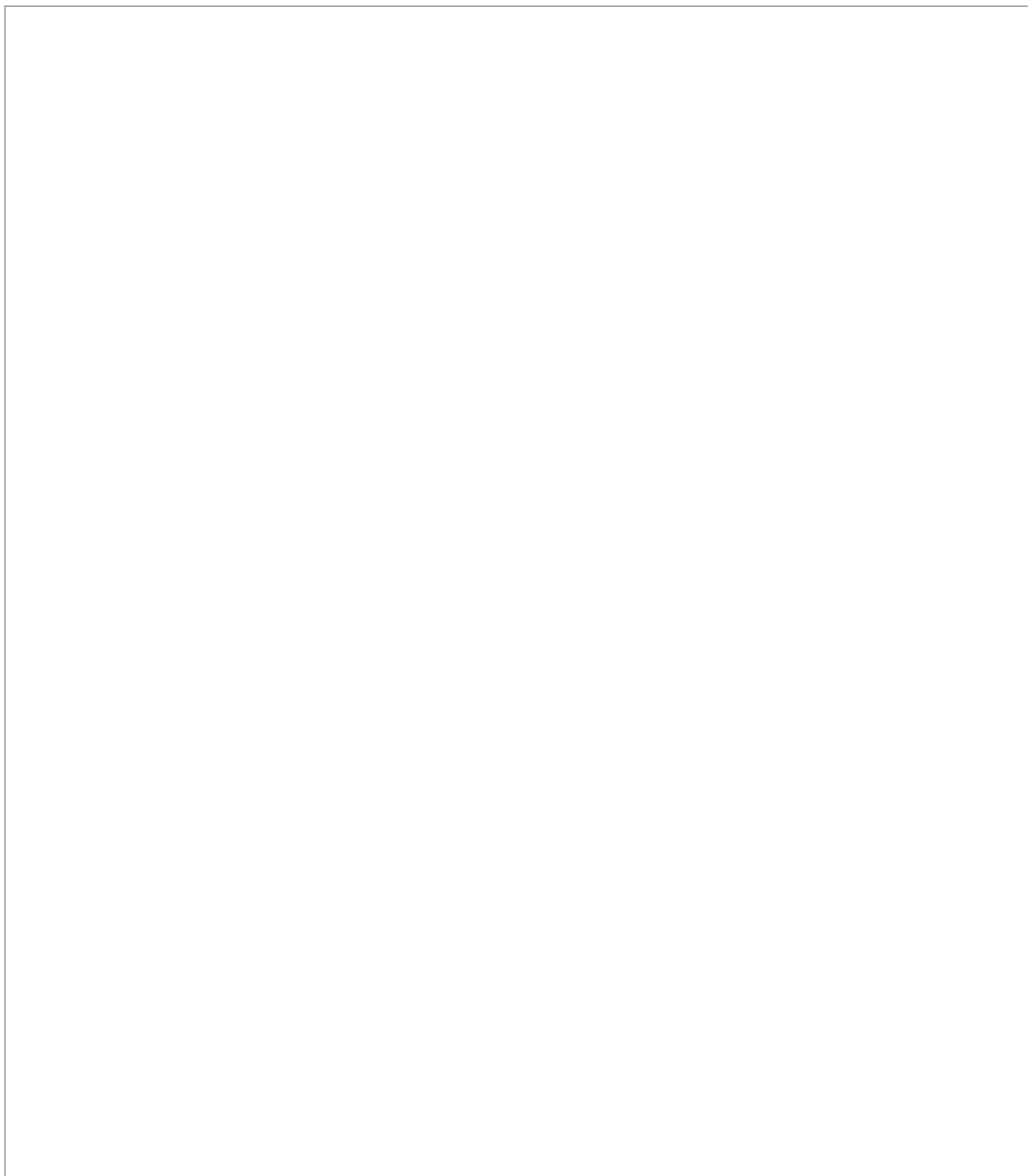
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## The Terrorism Diary for March and April 1999

*Below is a compendium of March and April dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Inclusion of a date or event does not suggest that we anticipate a commemorative terrorist event.*

<b>2 March 1956</b>	<b>Morocco.</b> Independence Day (termination of Treaty of Fez).
<b>2 March 1977</b>	<b>Libya.</b> Establishment of Jamahiriyah (Masses' State).
<b>3 March 1878</b>	<b>Bulgaria.</b> Independence Day.
<b>3 March 1961</b>	<b>Morocco.</b> Accession of King Hassan to throne.
<b>4 March 1982</b>	<b>Colombia, United States.</b> Effective date of extradition treaty aimed at narcotics traffickers.
<b>6 March 1957</b>	<b>Ghana.</b> Independence Day.
<b>6 March 1975</b>	<b>Kurdish region.</b> Algerian accord between Iran and Iraq abandoning support for the Kurds.
<b>10 March 1979</b>	<b>Kurdish region.</b> Death of Kurdish leader Mulla Mustafa Barzani.
<b>12 March 1880</b>	<b>Turkey.</b> Birth of Ataturk.
<b>12 March 1991</b>	<b>Greece.</b> Assassination in Athens of US Air Force Sgt. Ronald Stewart by 17 November.
<b>13 March 1979</b>	<b>Grenada.</b> Coup d'etat by Maurice Bishop (National Day).
<b>16 March 1921</b>	<b>Armenians.</b> Signing of Soviet-Turkish border treaty that ended Armenian hopes of establishing an independent state.
<b>17 March 1992</b>	<b>Argentina, Israel.</b> Hizballah's terrorist wing, Islamic Jihad, bombed Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.
<b>17 March</b>	<b>Ireland.</b> St. Patrick's Day (National Day).
<b>20 March 1956</b>	<b>Tunisia.</b> Independence Day.
<b>20 March 1995</b>	<b>Japan.</b> Aum Shinrikyo sarin gas attack on Tokyo subways.
<b>21 March</b>	<b>Iran.</b> Iranian New Year.



**21 March** *Turkey.* Kurdish New Year (Nevroz).

**22 March 1945** *Arab World.* Founding of Arab League (original members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Syria).

**22 March 1991** *Turkey.* Assassination of US Defense Department contract employee John Hilton Gandy in Istanbul by Dev Sol.

**23 March 1956** *Pakistan.* Pakistan Day (founding of Islamic republic).

**25 March 1821** *Greece.* Greek Revolution Memorial Day (celebrating beginning of independence from Turkey).

**25 March 1975** *Saudi Arabia.* Assassination of King Faisal and accession of King Khalid.

**26 March 1970** *Libya.* UK Evacuation Day (day British forces turned over bases and departed).

**26 March 1971** *Bangladesh.* Independence Day.

**26 March 1978** *Egypt, Israel.* Peace agreement ratified.

**28 March** *Palestinians.* National Day.

**29 March 1992** *Basque region.* Leadership of Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) apprehended in Bidart, France.

**30 March 1974** *Turkey.* Death of terrorist Mahir Cayan, member of Turkish People's Liberation Party.

**30 March 1976** *Palestinians.* Day of the Homeland.

**April** *Armenians.* April is dedicated by Armenian groups to the memory of the massacre of Armenians by Turks during World War I.

**1 April 1979** *Iran.* Islamic Republic Day.

**4 April 1947** *Syria.* Founding of Ba'th Party.

**4 April 1979** *Pakistan.* Ex-President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto executed; the terrorist group Al-Zulfikar, founded by his two sons, is named after him.

**4 April 1986** *Libya.* Libyan agents bombed La Belle discotheque in Berlin.

**5-20 April 1988** *Lebanon.* Hizballah hijacks Kuwait Airways Flight 422.

**7 April 1916** *Ireland.* Beginning of insurrection that led to independence.

**8 April 1947** *Iraq.* Founding of ruling Ba'th Party.

<b>11 April 1968</b>	<b><i>Palestinians.</i></b> Founding of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).
<b>13 April 1975</b>	<b><i>Lebanon.</i></b> Phalange militiamen attack bus, triggering Lebanese civil war.
<b>13 April 1999</b>	<b><i>Jewish World.</i></b> Commemoration of the Holocaust.
<b>14-15 April 1986</b>	<b><i>Libya.</i></b> US aircraft bomb Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for Libyan involvement in anti-US terrorism.
<b>18 April 1983</b>	<b><i>Lebanon.</i></b> Hizballah's terrorist wing, Islamic Jihad, car-bombed the US Embassy in Beirut.
<b>19 April 1980</b>	<b><i>Peru.</i></b> The Sendero Luminoso Declaration of War.
<b>21 April 1999</b>	<b><i>Israel.</i></b> Independence Day.
<b>22 April 1997</b>	<b><i>Peru.</i></b> Death of MRTA Leader Nestor Cerna Cartolini during the hostage rescue mission at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence.
<b>24 April 1915</b>	<b><i>Armenians.</i></b> National Day of Sorrow. Commemorates Turkish massacre.
<b>28 April 1937</b>	<b><i>Iraq.</i></b> Birthday of Saddam Husayn.
<b>29 April 1986</b>	<b><i>India.</i></b> Sikh militants declare independent republic of Khalistan at Golden Temple in Amritsar; militants expelled from temple next day.



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## Chronology of International Terrorism—January 1999

*The following incidents have met the criteria for the Intelligence Community's Incident Review Panel since publication of the previous issue of the Terrorism Review. These incidents are the basis for the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism, published annually as the US Government's official record of international terrorism.*

**Africa**

**6 January**

**Sierra Leone:** *The Italian Embassy reported two Italian missionaries were kidnapped by Armed Forces Revolutionary Council rebels.* [redacted]

[redacted] the rebels deceived the missionaries, telling them they could meet with their colleague who was kidnapped in November. The two missionaries were rescued on 13 January by government sponsored forces. [redacted]

**6 January**

**Angola:** *A business partner in the Australian-owned Cuango mine reported 30 armed National Union for the Total Independence of Angola rebels ambushed a vehicle, killing one British national, one Brazilian, and two Angolan security guards.* [redacted] the rebels disabled the vehicle using gunfire and executed the passengers. [redacted]

**8 January**

**South Africa:** *Five unidentified youths firebombed a Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) restaurant, causing major damage but no injuries.* [redacted]

[redacted] Eyewitnesses stated that the youths chased away several bystanders before attacking the restaurant. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. [redacted]

**10 January**

**South Africa:** [redacted] *two unidentified assailants threw bricks and Molotov cocktails through the window of a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant, causing several thousand dollars' worth of damage but no injuries. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.* [redacted]

**12 January**

**Sierra Leone:** *Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels kidnapped a Spanish missionary.* [redacted]

[redacted] On 22 January church officials reported soldiers from the Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) rescued the missionary. [redacted]

**25 January**

**Sierra Leone:** [redacted] *RUF rebels robbed and kidnapped a Japanese businessman.* The attackers stole money from the businessman's office before burning the building. On 29 January the rebels released the hostage. [redacted]

**Asia**

**18 January**

**Bangladesh:** *Two assailants attempted to assassinate celebrated Bangladeshi poet Samsur Rahman,* [redacted] Rahman, who has been outspoken against Islamic extremism, escaped unharmed, but his wife suffered knife wounds. Police arrested one Pakistani and one South African, who told investigators that they received financial support from Usama Bin Ladin for training and recruiting *mujahidin* in Bangladesh. Police suspect the *Harakat ul-Jihad Islami (HUJI)* is responsible and have arrested at least 47 members of the *HUJI* and *Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)*. [redacted]

**4 January**

**India:** *Unidentified Muslim militants fired four rockets at a police complex in Pattan, Kashmir, killing one officer, his wife, and seriously injuring their five-year-old child.* [redacted]

**Latin America**

**11 January**

**Colombia: Unidentified assailants kidnapped two Italian citizens and one Colombian at a roadblock.** According to media reports authorities suspect either the *National Liberation Army* or *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia* to be responsible [redacted]

**Middle East**

**7 January**

**Israel: Hizballah claimed it fired several mortars into an orchard but caused no injury or damage.** According to press reports, the shelling was in retaliation for the demolition of houses in the village of Arnun and the banishment of a family from the village of Sh'ba. [redacted]

**9 January**

**Yemen: Armed assailants abducted a British oil worker from a US-operated oil field.** On 13 January the kidnappers released the hostage unharmed. [redacted]

**17 January**

**Yemen: Armed tribesmen kidnapped two Dutch aid workers, their two sons, and two British aid workers.** The kidnappers demanded the release of a tribe member who is in prison, according to news sources. On 2 February, tribesmen released the six hostages unharmed. [redacted]

**27 January**

**Yemen: Tribesmen kidnapped three German nationals and five Yemenis, according to press reports.** Kidnapped were a German midwife, her Yemeni husband and three children, her visiting mother and brother, and their driver. On 28 January, the kidnappers released the five Yemeni citizens. No demands were made for the release of the German hostages. The German foreign ministry urged Yemeni officials to avoid any rescue attempts that would endanger the hostages. [redacted]



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## Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—December 1998–January 1999

*The incidents listed below provide an overview of indigenous terrorism worldwide.*

### Africa

#### Angola

On 19 January in Benguela, eyewitnesses reported that *National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)* militants ambushed a convoy of 10 civilian vehicles, killing 13 persons and injuring 12 others. Several persons also were abducted.

On 25 January in Lwena, eyewitnesses stated that *UNITA* rebels attacked two vehicles, killing 30 persons. four of the 30 fatalities were police officers.

#### South Africa

On 1 January 1999 in Cape Town, a car bomb exploded outside a waterfront business district, injuring three persons. Although a Cape Town man publicly claimed responsibility for the attack, suspect *Muslims Against Global Oppression* militants planted the bomb.

On 11 January in Pietersburg, the Deputy Director of Legal Services for the provinces transport department was assassinated. Witnesses stated that two gunmen approached the victim's car as he sat at a stoplight and fired 10 rounds into the driver's side door before fleeing the scene in a waiting vehicle. Police have no suspects.

On 13 January in Johannesburg, a bomb exploded at a railway interchange, causing minor damage. No one was injured, and railway operations were not affected. Authorities found a second bomb shortly after the first explosion and defused it without further incident. No one claimed responsibility.

On 28 January in Cape Town, a bomb exploded outside a police station, injuring 11 civilians. The device was concealed in a plastic garbage bin adjacent to the station. The station is near the site where police killed a Muslim rioter three weeks earlier. Authorities have attributed similar attacks to the militant Muslim group *People Against Gangsterism and Drugs*.

#### Uganda

On 1 January in Bungatira, *Lord's Resistance Army* militants interrupted a New Year's party. Eyewitnesses stated that the militants abducted 10 persons.

On 10 January in Kabarole, eyewitnesses stated that 30 *Allied Democratic Forces* rebels raided a village, killing five persons, injuring two, and abducting six others. the attackers looted the village, causing major damage to several shops.

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Asia

India

On 11 January in Andhra Pradesh, 50 unidentified assailants threw bombs at Congress Party members as they left the local courthouse, killing two persons and injuring six others. Published reports blame the attack on ruling Telugu Desam Party activists. [redacted]

On 26 January armed militants from the *United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)* attacked a police patrol in Sibsagar District, Assam, killing two officers and injuring eight others. [redacted]

Police reported that *ULFA* rebels blew up a pipeline in Dibrugarh District, Assam, on 26 January. [redacted]

Pakistan

In Lahore on 3 January, a powerful bomb detonated on a road, killing three persons, injuring several others, and causing significant damage to the highway bridge and buildings in the area. [redacted] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was the target, as the blast occurred when Sharif normally travels on the road. Two of the injured were police officers posted to provide roadside security for the Prime Minister's motorcade. Police arrested two members of *Lashkar-E-Jangvi*, a violent Sunni group. [redacted]

Philippines

On 4 January in Jolo, unidentified assailants threw several grenades into an area where firefighters and soldiers were extinguishing a fire and preventing looting. The blast killed nine persons and injured 50 others, including bystanders who had gathered at the scene. Local press speculated that the *Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)* is responsible. [redacted]

On 5 January in Basilan, unidentified militants threw a grenade into a restaurant, injuring two civilians and one soldier. [redacted] suspect the ASG. [redacted]

[redacted] on 5 January *Moro Islamic Liberation Front* rebels attacked a logging truck in Cotabato with rifle-fired grenades, killing four persons. The victims were affiliated with the Cotabato Timber Logging Company [redacted]

[redacted] ASG militants detonated two homemade bombs on two passenger buses in Bukidnon on 8 January, killing two persons and injuring 20 others [redacted]

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**Sri Lanka**

On 8 January *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)* militants fired rocket-propelled grenades at civilians working in their fields in Vavuniya, killing three persons and injuring several others. [redacted]

On 18 January two bombs exploded within minutes of each other, destroying two electrical transformers and damaging vehicles and shops in the vicinity. [redacted] Local news reported that major areas of Colombo were without power for several hours. Police believe the *LTTE* militants are responsible. [redacted]

On 23 January suspected *LTTE* guerrillas bombed three power transformers simultaneously. There were no reports of injury or damage [redacted]

**Eurasia**

**Russia**

According to press reports, on 29 December in Argun, Chechnya, local police discovered and defused a bomb attached to a container holding unspecified radioactive material. No one claimed responsibility. [redacted]

**Europe**

**Corsica (France)**

According to press reports, a bomb injured two persons and destroyed a government building in Ghisonaccia on 5 January. No one claimed responsibility, but the attack bears the hallmark of *National Front for the Liberation of Corsica*. [redacted]

**Greece**

On 11 January in Athens, a firebomb exploded outside the office of Greece's Deputy Foreign Minister, causing minor damage. The *Children of November* claimed responsibility in a telephone call to a local newspaper. [redacted]

**Ireland**

Five heavily armed men robbed a van carrying more than \$1.7 million on 4 January in Dublin. The group was forced to abandon most of the loot when its getaway car broke down. [redacted] the *Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA)* is responsible. According to press reports, the *CIRA* is seeking cash to finance a new terror campaign. [redacted]

**Spain**

Unidentified hooded individuals set fire to a courthouse in Bilbao on 1 January, causing major damage. *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* members or sympathizers have conducted similar attacks in the past. [redacted]

On 2 January, according to local television reports, hooded assailants set fire to an automated teller machine in Pamplona, causing major damage. The attack bears the *ETA's* hallmark. [redacted]

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Six hooded arsonists set fire to a post office in Renteria on 16 January, causing major damage, according to the local press. The attack bears the ETA's hallmark. [redacted]

**Turkey**

A bomb exploded outside a bank on 7 January in Istanbul, causing minor damage. [redacted] an *Islamic Great Eastern Raiders-Front* banner near the scene. [redacted]

On 15 January assailants fired rockets at a Raman-3 oil production station in Batman, killing one person and wounding three others. [redacted] two assailants were killed during the attack. The *Kurdistan Workers' Party* may be responsible. [redacted]

According to press reports, unidentified gunmen shot and killed a local Imam on 19 January in Batman. No group claimed responsibility. [redacted]

**United Kingdom**

On 6 January, a boobytrapped bomb exploded at a Catholic sports club in Magherafelt, Northern Ireland, injuring one person and causing minor damage. [redacted] the club had received a telephone warning the previous day, but no bomb was discovered. A telephone caller to the media claimed responsibility on behalf of the renegade loyalist group *Orange Volunteers*. [redacted]

A bomb exploded at a house in Loughinisland, County Down, on 19 January, injuring one person. The Royal Ulster Constabulary blamed the attack on the *Orange Volunteers*, who claimed responsibility the following day. [redacted]

**Latin America**

**Colombia**

On January 5 in Santander Department, *Army of National Liberation (ELN)* rebels set up a false checkpoint on the Pan American Highway, and kidnapped eight persons, according to local press. [redacted]

According to local press reports, on 6 January in Cesar Department five police officers were killed and five others wounded in an attack by *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia*. [redacted]

On 8 January in Jamundi, *ELN* rebels detonated explosive devices destroying the town's mall but causing no injuries. Local press reports indicate the rebels stole medicine, money and clothing. [redacted]

In southern Cali on 12 January, according to radio reports, *ELN* rebels detonated explosives outside a commercial establishment and an automatic teller machine, causing major damage but no injuries. [redacted]

**Haiti**

On 12 January in Port-au-Prince, two unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on a car carrying Haitian President Rene Preval's executive secretary, injuring her and killing her driver, according to press reports. The motive is unknown and no arrests have been made. [redacted]

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**Uruguay**

On 2 January in Montevideo, a homemade bomb exploded, injuring two police officers and one man in custody and destroying the police precinct. [redacted]

[redacted] An anonymous caller contacted the National Firemen's Directorate to claim responsibility, and authorities are investigating the incident. [redacted]

**Middle East**

**Algeria**

On 2 January in El Bayadh, according to news reports, armed militants killed a family of 22 persons. [redacted]

On 9 January in Medea, according to news reports, armed militants killed seven persons at a roadblock. [redacted]

On 11 January in Bouira, according to press reports, armed militants killed five villagers. [redacted]

In Tiaret on 15 January, a homemade parcel bomb exploded in the street, killing two persons and injuring 18 others. The attack bears the characteristics of the *Armed Islamic Group (GIA)* [redacted]

On 22 January in Sidi El Kebir, [redacted] militants murdered five villagers and wounded one other person. The attack bears the GIA's hallmark. [redacted]

[redacted]

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